



Tuesday, Nov 18, 2025.

The act of the book review and its role in Selection.

The book reviews are essential tools in the selection process; they provide critical insight into the content, quality, relevance, and reception of a book. For librarians, book reviews help make informed decisions about which materials to acquire, especially when budget are limited and user needs are diverse.

A book review is a critical evaluation of a book's content, style, purpose, and value. It may be written by professional critics, librarians, scholars, or general readers.

Reviews can be short summaries or index analyses, depending on the audience and purpose.

Type of book reviews
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(1) Descriptive reviews: Summarise the

books Content without Judgement

- (i) Evaluative reviews: Offers Opinions on the books ^{Strength} ~~weakness~~ and ^{weakness} ~~strength~~
- (j) Comparative reviews: Compare the book to other in the same genre or field
- (k) Reader review: Found on platforms like good reads or Amazon - this one is often informal

Role of book reviews
in selection.

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"Book reviews help librarians."

- (a) Assess quality and relevance - Especially for unfamiliar title or author's
- (b) Identify bias or controversy - Unusual insensitive subject areas
- (c) Gauge popularity and demand - Reviews may suggest public interest
- (d) Support Selection decision - Review can justify acquisitions to Stater

holders.

In libraries with limited budget, reviews helps prioritise purchases and avoid waste.

Sources of Reliable book

Reviews

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librarians rely on trusted sources for professional reviews. This include

Source

description

(1) library Journal

Reviews for academic and public libraries.

(2) Book list

Description Evaluation of Fiction & non-fiction title.

(3) Publisher's weekly

Industries - Focus reviews NEWS and Publishing NEEDS.

(4) School library Journals

Reviews for childrens and young adult literature

Source	Description
(3) African book Collective	Reviews of African literature and Scholarship.
(4) Local news paper / Magazines	may include reviews of Nigerian publications

Online platform like good reads and Amazon offer user reviews but this should be used consciously due to potential bias or lack of expertise.

Anatomy of a good book review:

A well-written book review typically includes :

(a) Bibliographic information - A bibliographic information of a book is the physical description of information materials like title, author, subject and others.

that defines the book.

(b) Summary of Content -

Brief over-view of the book
Themes Structure and scope.

(c) Critical evaluation - Analyses
of writing Style, Originality, depth
and accuracy.

(d) Audience and use - Who is
the book for? Is Suitable For
Student, Researcher, General readers
?

(e) Friends and witnesses - Balance
Critic highlighting both merit and
limitation.

(f) Recommendation - Whether the
book should be acquired and why?

Writing book review as a librarian

librarians can contribute to the profession by writing reviews for journals, blogs, or internal reports.

This enhances their credibility and supports fair decision-making.

Tips for writing effective reviews:

- (1) ~~The~~ The objective and fair
- (2) Avoid personal bias or emotional language.
- (3) Use clear concise language
- (4) Support claims with examples from the books.
- (5) Consider the books relevance to your library user's.

Book reviews in the Nigeria context.

Challenges:

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- (1) limited access to professional review sources.
- (2) View local journals dedicated to book criticism
- (3) Over reliance of foreign that may not reflect local reliance

Opportunities:

- (1) - Encourage Nigerian librarians to write and publish reviews
- (2) - Develop local review platforms and network.
- (3) - Partner with publishers and authors for pre-publication reviews.

Case Studies: Using reviews to select a novel -
A librarian in a public library

To ibadan is Considering acquiring "Children of blood and bone" by Tomi Adeyemi. She consult:

(1) library journal - Phrases

the book Cultural wishiness and appeals to ~~the~~ teenagers (teen)

(2) Good reads - mixed reviews

on pacing but strong reader engagement.

(3) School library journal - Recommended

for young adult collections.

Based on this reviews, the librarian decides to acquired the book for the teen, for the section and promote it during the reading week.